

Remarks/Argument

Response to Examiner's Remarks in Detailed Action

Reconsideration and further examination of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Application Status, General

The Application stands rejected as to all claims pending prior to this Amendment, on the basis of Miller, U.S. Patent 2,201,372 ("Miller"). Applicant hereby requests an extension of time of three months, and has included a check for the full amount thereof; the undersigned furthermore authorizes the charge of any underpayment of the fees therefore to Deposit Account 50-0954.

Claims 3, 11, and 17 remain in this application. Claim 18 is newly added. Claims 1, 2, and 4-10, and 12-16 have been previously cancelled (without prejudice to file a divisional application).

The Examiner noted the existence of copending Application 10/685,914, filed October 15, 2003. Treatment of the Terminal Disclaimer requirement levied by the Examiner occurs at the end of this paper. Applicant also specifically calls to the attention of the Examiner the divisional application that derives from the instant application as a parent application, now bearing serial number 10/841,197, as filed on May 7, 2004.

II. Discussion of Amendments and Support

Claim 3 is amended for antecedent basis reasons, as described in the section headed "Response to Claim Rejections, 35 U.S.C. § 112 – Indefiniteness," below. In addition to those amendments, the Applicant has removed the phrase "which surface is disposed substantially parallel to the axis of the second pipe portion," from Claim 3. That limitation is now the focus of a dependent claim, Claim 18, which is newly added herein. No support is deemed necessary for removal of this limitation from Claim 3, as it merely deletes a limitation, rather than adding a new one. For support for this limitation now in

Claim 18, Applicant again points to p. 15, lines 26-28 viewed in connection with Figures 4 and 7 of the application as filed.

Claim 11 is amended to recite dependency from Claim 3. This is correction of dependency, now that Claim 2 has been removed, and is not believed to require any specification support.

Claim 17 is amended to refer to the rear-most angle formed between the segment and the male pipe portion. Previously, the claim referred to "a single angle." Applicant appeals to figures 2 and 4 for specification support. Additionally, Applicant has moved the term "deformable" for grammatical reasons. Support is not believed to be necessary.

Claim 18 is newly added, and Applicant claims support as identified at p. 15, lines 26-28 viewed in connection with Figures 4 and 7 of the application as filed.

III. Response to Claim Rejections, 35 U.S.C. § 112 – Indefiniteness

The Examiner rejects Claims 3 and 11 for indefiniteness on the following bases, which the Applicant responds to and corrects as described below:

1. Claim 3, line 13 – insufficient antecedent basis for "said gland-facing surface"

Applicant has deleted "said gland-facing surface" and replaced the same with the term "gasket," for antecedent basis reasons. The term gasket was introduced previously in Claim 3 at line 3 thereof, and therefore this term has antecedent basis.

2. Claim 3, lines 19 and 20 – omission of the term "said"

Applicant has added the word "said" in each location specified by the Examiner. This correction is made for grammatical reasons only.

By dependency, these amendments are also responsive to the rejection against Claim 11.

IV. Interview Acknowledgement and Thanks

The Applicant acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for the interview conducted on December 15, 2004. Applicant and the examiner discussed the invention to show distinctions between the instant invention and Miller. A formal interview summary is attached hereto.

V. Response to Claim Rejections, § 102 – Regarding Claim 3

Claim 3 is rejected by the Examiner on the basis of Figures 16 and 11 of Miller (U.S. Patent 2,201,372, hereinafter “Miller”). Claim 11, a dependent claim from Claim 3, is also rejected over figures 11-14 of Miller. As discussed herein, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

A. Standard of Review: All Elements Must be Found in the Cited Reference:

Applicant understands that the Examiner is aware of the standard of review. For the sake of the record, the standard is here stated, as Applicant believes it has not been met in the present case. The standard that applies for maintaining any rejection under section 102 is set forth by M.P.E.P. section 2131, which provides:

The claim is anticipated **only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found**, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). ... **“the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the... claim.”** Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim, but this is not an *ipsissimis verbis* test, i.e., identity of terminology is not required. In re Bond, 910 F.2d 831, 15 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990). (Emphasis added).

The Manual therefore provides that a claim is not to be rejected as anticipated unless the purportedly anticipating reference includes both (1) all identical elements and (2)

complete detail and identical arrangement of all of those elements. In this case, Miller fails to anticipate the claims as amended, as more fully explained below:

B. Application of Standard to Present Case: Missing Elements (those not expressly or inherently set forth in the prior art)¹

Applicant respectfully identifies the following two elements/limitations of Claim 3 that appear to be absent from the Miller reference:

- (1) **DISTINCTION 1: BITING**: the claimed segment bites into the bell, rather than merely contacting or abutting the bell; and
- (2) **DISTINCTION 2: DIRECT LOAD PATH**: a portion of the claimed extractive load is transferred directly to the bell, as opposed to by indirect transmission of the entire extractive load through the bolts.

Applicant is unable to find either of these limitations in Miller, particularly not in the cited Figure 16. Applicant further contends that the principles of the inherency doctrine compel a finding that these limitations are not inherent in the Miller reference, and therefore cannot be read in. Accordingly, Miller fails to teach or disclose each and every element of the claim, either expressly or inherently, and therefore the rejection must be withdrawn. The Applicant explains in greater detail, below:

1. Distinction 1 - Biting Into The Bell.

In the Examiner's "Response to Arguments" section, the Examiner states, "The Examiner is unsure of the distinction in terms of biting which applicant argues in the amendment dated 5/7/04." Applicant seeks to provide additional discussion herein to satisfy the understanding of the Examiner, and to explain that Miller does not bite into the second pipe (the "bell").

¹ The Applicant understands by virtue of the citation of Miller that the Examiner must assume certain structures exist in both Miller and the Application. For convenience of the Examiner, Applicant recites the following comparisons of terminology, for the sake of clarity of discussion. We stress that these suggestions are not to be treated as an admission or acceptance of equivalence, identity, or correlation among structures or functions for interpretation of Applicant's claims.

Application and Argument Term

Spigot (or first pipe portion)
Bell (or second pipe portion)
Segment

Miller Term

Pipe
Sleeve
Gripping Element

Applicant's Claim 3 states: "(i) the locking member *bites into* the first pipe portion *and the second pipe* portion upon compression of the gland..." Support for this statement is found in the specification as filed at p. 14, line 10; p. 15, lines 1-2, among others. This limitation indicates that in Applicant's claimed invention, the surfaces of both the bell and the spigot are penetrated to a degree by the segment.

(a) Meaning of "Bite": To demonstrate the meaning of "bite" and "biting," Applicant's specification clearly uses the terms "bite" and "biting" to mean penetration or intrusion into the surface. This is clear from both the common understanding of the term "bite," and the fact that Applicant uses the phrase "bites into," indicating intrusion. See the specification as follows:

- P. 11, lines 23-24: referring to "biting **into**" the spigot, then cessation of "further penetration";
- P. 14, line 10: "points to bite **into** bell 12..."
- P. 14, line 14: "the point will likely bite **into** bell 12"
- P. 15, line 2 "biting of upper protrusion 17 **into** bell 12"
- P. 16, line 16 "biting **into** bell 12"
- and by implication at p. 6 lines 25-30, in contrasting the mere frictional contact in the Barr reference.

Likewise, this meaning is supported by dictionary definitions. Merriam-Webster Unabridged includes the following as the first definition of "bite:" "1 a (1) : to seize with the teeth so that they enter, grip, or wound <the dogs *bit* the child savagely>" (available online at <http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com/cgi-bin/unabridged?va=bite> on January 9, 2005 (see screen capture, attached)). Further, the term "Into" is defined by the same reference as indicating penetration (see also attached,

and the same source at <http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com/cgi-bin/unabridged?va=into>, on January 9, 2005).²

(b) Absence of Biting in Miller: Applicant's claim and specification thus refer to biting, or penetration, into the surface of both the bell and the spigot. By contrast, this element/limitation is missing from the Miller reference, which does not provide for biting into or penetration of the bell ("sleeve," in his terminology). Paragraph 4 of the Office Action suggests that "as shown in Figure 11 [of Miller] ... the top corner of the locking member 25 [is] biting into the second pipe portion." Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this statement, as Applicant disagrees. The figure does not show such biting that Applicant can perceive. Moreover, reviewing Miller in detail is instructive to demonstrate that Miller does not teach the biting into the bell (and in fact teaches away from such biting):

- (1) **Express Statement**: **No Express Mention of Biting the Bell in Miller**: Miller does not expressly mention biting into the bell, but he *does* mention biting into the spigot. (See, e.g., Page 2, Col. 2, lines 3-5; lines 21-22; lines 56-58; lines 68-69; and Page 2, Col. 3, lines 39-40; 45; and 59-60). Moreover, Miller's figures demonstrate that he will expressly draw the penetration when it occurs (see, Figs. 1-14 of Miller, at points 25a). While Miller's figures show penetration into the spigot at point 25a, they show no such penetration into the bell in the area of reference numeral 15. Clearly, Miller knows how both to textually describe and to visually show biting into the surface of one of the components when he so desires. The fact that Miller mentions such biting many times in connection with the *spigot* demonstrates that Miller will call out the penetration when it occurs in the context of his invention. Nevertheless, Applicant is unable to find a single

² Applicant stresses that it must be clearly understood that by penetration into the bell and into the spigot, the Applicant means only penetration into the surface, not puncturing or rupturing, which would be stated in terms of penetration **through** to the other side or interior, rather than "into" as stated in the specification.

reference to biting into the **bell** (the “sleeve”) in the Miller reference. Therefore, it is apparent that Miller did not intend the biting to occur with respect to the **bell**, and certainly does not expressly state that biting occurs.

- (2) **Inherency: No Necessity of Biting the Bell in Miller (no Inherent Disclosure):** As MPEP 2131 states, each element must be disclosed “either expressly or inherently” in a reference to be anticipated. As noted in the immediately preceding paragraph, Miller clearly does not expressly disclose biting into the bell. Therefore, unless Miller inherently discloses the element of biting into the bell, Miller must be withdrawn for failure to qualify as an anticipating reference. See Metabolite Laboratories, Inc. v. Laboratory Corp. of America Holdings, 370 F.3d 1354, 1367 (Fed. Cir. 2004) (“At the outset, the Refsum article does not recite all of the claim 13 limitations. Thus, anticipation would have to rely on an inherent disclosure of undisclosed features, in this case, the “correlating” limitation.”); see also “In re King, 801 F.2d 1324, 1326, 231 USPQ 136, 138 (Fed.Cir.1986) (“Under the principles of inherency, if a structure in the prior art necessarily functions in accordance with the limitations of a process or method claim of an application, the claim is anticipated.”).

The courts have explained clearly the limited circumstances under which a reference is considered to inherently disclose matter that is not expressly stated. Most significantly, a reference “inherently” includes or discloses a limitation **only** if the limitation **must necessarily** be present in the matter that the reference describes. Stated the other way, a reference that “probably” or “possibly” includes or uses an element or limitation does **not** inherently disclose

that element or limitation. Probabilities and possibilities are not enough. Necessity is required. The Federal Circuit stated it clearly in Trintec Industries, Inc. v. TOP-U.S.A. Corp., 295 F.3d 1292 (Fed. Cir. 2002):

“A single prior art reference anticipates a patent claim if it expressly or inherently describes each and every limitation set forth in the patent claim. **Inherent anticipation requires that the missing descriptive material is “necessarily present,” not merely probably or possibly present**, in the prior art. Verdegaal Bros., Inc. v. Union Oil Co., 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed.Cir.1987). Inherent anticipation requires that the missing descriptive material is “necessarily present,” not merely probably or possibly present, in the prior art. In re Robertson, 169 F.3d 743, 745, 49 USPQ2d 1949, 1950-51 (Fed.Cir.1999) (citing Continental Can Co. USA, Inc. v. Monsanto Co., 948 F.2d 1264, 1268, 20 USPQ2d 1746, 1749 (Fed.Cir.1991)); (emphasis added by Applicant)

See also Akamai Technologies, Inc. v. Cable & Wireless Internet Services, Inc., 344 F.3d 1186, 1193 (Fed. Cir. 2003) (“A claim limitation is inherent in the prior art if it is necessarily present in the prior art, not merely probably or possibly present. Rosco v. Mirror Lite, 304 F.3d 1373, 1380 (Fed.Cir.2002)”) (emphasis added). See also Animatics Corp. v. Quicksilver Controls, Inc., 102 Fed.Appx. 659, 670 (Fed. Cir. 2004) (“Inherency, however, may not be established by probabilities or possibilities. **The mere fact that a certain thing may result from a given set of circumstances is not sufficient.**” Id. Finally, the prior art must also enable the claimed invention. Minn. Mining & Mfg. Co. v. Chemque, Inc., 303 F.3d 1294, 1306 (Fed. Cir. 2002)”) (emphasis added).

Applying these very clear statements of law, even if the Examiner sees a possibility that the device disclosed in the Miller reference *may* bite into the bell, the mere possibility is not enough under U.S. law. It

would not even be sufficient if it were “probable” that the gripping element in Miller bites into the bell. The precedent shown above demonstrates that the Office should conclude that Miller inherently discloses biting into the bell only if the gripping element must necessarily bite into the bell. Applicant fails to see how one could come to such a conclusion, given that Miller is devoid of information regarding malleability, density, hardness, and other materials and properties that would be required to make such a calculation. Applicant additionally notes that it would be improper to conclude that an effect of biting occurs in Miller, solely on the basis that Applicant’s structure is similar and Applicant shows biting. See, e.g., Crown Operations Intern., Ltd. v. Solutia Inc., 289 F.3d 1367, 1377 (Fed. Cir. 2002)(“Crown urges us to accept the proposition that if a prior art reference discloses the same structure as claimed by a patent, the resulting property, in this case, two percent solar control film reflectance, should be assumed. We decline to adopt this approach because this proposition is not in accordance with our cases on inherency. If the two percent reflectance limitation is inherently disclosed by the Gillery patent, it must be necessarily present and a person of ordinary skill in the art would recognize its presence.”) (footnote omitted).

Against this backdrop, the Applicant is not aware of any argument or evidence in the record showing that the bell necessarily is bitten into by Miller. Applicant contends that nothing suggests such inherency. Moreover, in item 3 of this Section, below, the Applicant demonstrates that it is more logical to conclude that biting will **not** occur in the Miller reference. To the extent that one might contend the biting will necessarily occur, Applicant respectfully requests a full explanation and argument supporting that basis, which Applicant

believes must be presented in a subsequent non-final office action given that the Applicant has not had the opportunity to address such explanation or argument previously, as it does not yet appear in the record.

We have no reason to think that the Examiner possesses personal knowledge on the subject in support of a finding that biting necessarily occurs, but if the Examiner has such knowledge and seeks to rely upon it, an affidavit of the Examiner will be required reciting the facts within the personal knowledge of the Examiner that support the finding of inherency. See, 37 C.F.R. 1.104(d)(2).

(3) Biting is Contrary to Miller's Stated Mode of Operation:

Buttressing Applicant's judgment that the Miller reference does not expressly or inherently anticipate the Applicant's invention, Applicant notes that Miller itself cites a mode of operation that would counsel the person of ordinary skill in the art away from concluding or assuming that the gripping element bites into the bell. Specifically, at Column 2, lines 58-69, Miller indicates that there is a camming relationship between the gripping element and the bell. As will be apparent to one in the art, camming includes an element of sliding during rotation. If the gripping element bites into the bell, Applicant understands that this sliding (and therefore the camming) would be impeded. Accordingly, Miller's desired and expressly stated mechanism teaches away from any attempt to cause the segment to bite into the bell.

2. Transfer of a Portion of Extractive Force *Directly* to the Bell.

Applicant respectfully notes that a limitation of Claim 3 is that "a second portion of [the extractive force is transferred] directly to an interior surface of

the second pipe portion.” For support, Applicant directs the Examiner to page 10, lines 24 and 25, and page 13, lines 6 to 13, as originally filed. Applicant notes that the claim refers to “direct’ transfer, rather than transfer that is carried to the bell by way of an indirect segment-to-gland-to-bolts-to-bell load path. The claimed load path is directly segment-to-bell. By reference to “extractive force,” the claim specifies that a mere radial load in the bell-segment-spigot relationship is not sufficient. The load transferred must in part derive from the thrust forces or other extractive forces experienced by the spigot.

In contrast to the claim of the Applicant, Miller does not specify an extractive load path passing directly from the segment into the bell. In fact, Miller specifies to the contrary. At Page 2, column 2, lines 30 to 36, Miller specifies that the load path is pipe-to-gripping-element-to-shield-ring-to-ring-18.³ This expressly stated load path is far from the direct load path claimed by Applicant. In the face of this clear contrast between Miller and Claim 3, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

VI. Response to Claim Rejections, § 102 – Regarding Claim 11

Applicant respectfully suggests that by virtue of dependency from Claim 3, Claim 11 is now allowable. All of the argument above is hereby incorporated by reference. Additionally, if the rejection is to be maintained, Applicant respectfully requests further explanation of how the Miller reference Figures 11 to 14 show different density regions in the gasket. Applicant sees no gasket featured in these figures. From the specification of Miller, Applicant understands reference numeral 18 to refer to a likely metallic ring (a split ring, as understood in the industry). Thus, Figures 11 to 14 cannot show varying density regions in the gasket, because no gasket is shown. Figure 16 does include a

³ At Page 2, column 2, lines 1 to 27, Miller explains the necessity of this load path to the function of the device he discloses. He specifies that the configuration of the pocketing for the ring 18 is important because it cannot allow for the Ring 18 to recede from the segment. The stated reason is that if the Ring 18 recedes, then the gripping element will also recede (note, sliding against the bell or completely disengaging from contact, because it is not bitten into the bell), and will therefore lose grip on the spigot.

reference numeral 61, so Applicant has considered whether Figure 16 shows such variable density regions, but Figure 16 likewise appears devoid of any such suggestion. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection, on the basis of dependency and on the basis that the figures do not show such density regions.

VII. Response to Claim Rejections, § 102 – Regarding Claim 17

The Examiner rejected claim 17 on the basis that Miller Figures 11-14 and 16 show, in part, the segment forming an acute angle between the male pipe and the locking segment, while other portions engage the female pipe and gland at points not adjacent the male pipe. Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of the claim in light of the limitations set forth in the claim and discussed herein.

First, Claim 17 originally specified that the segment formed a single angle that is acute in the extraction direction. By contrast, Miller, being an inverted “V” shape, touches the male pipe portion at two locations, thus creating two angles with the male pipe. The first of these (the innermost) is acute in the extraction direction. The second, rear-most angle is acute in the insertion direction in Miller. Applicant has revised Claim 17 to refer to the rear-most angle only. Because Claim 17 indicates that the rear-most angle must be acute in the extraction direction, and Miller’s is obtuse in the extraction direction, Miller fails to meet this limitation of the claim.

Second, Claim 17 specifies that the portions of the locking segment engage the female pipe and the gland at points not adjacent the male pipe. Applicant respectfully suggests that the examiner’s reliance on Figures 11 to 14 of Miller is misplaced. Those figures show the use of a snap ring (element 18), rather than a “tightenable compression gland” as required by Claim 17. The snap ring is neither a gland, nor “tightenable.” Those in the art will understand that a snap ring has a single locked position; it does not have the “tightenable” capability, as it is either engaged at the ring’s seated position, or it fails. Thus, Figures 11 to 14 do not meet the elements of the Claim 17. To the extent that Miller allows for use of a tightenable compression gland, that embodiment is specifically

shown at Figure 16. In that figure, Miller expressly shows the configuration that results when a gland is used in place of the snap ring 18 – specifically, the segment meets the bell at a location not adjacent the male pipe portion, but the segment meets the gland *immediately adjacent* the male pipe portion. Miller therefore fails to meet the limitation set forth in Claim 17.

VIII. Distinctions in New Claim 18

Claim 18 is newly added. Claim 18 provides that the location of direct transfer of extractive force component to the bell occurs at a surface that is substantially parallel to the axis of the bell. Applicant appeals to Figure 2 for support in the specification. Applicant contends that the Miller reference has no locations that are substantially parallel to the axis of the bell that are even near the segment. Certainly, no force is transferred at such locations. Moreover, given the reliance by Miller upon the converging, wedging and camming surface of the sleeve (at Page 2, column 1, lines 50-69), Miller appears incapable of operating if the contact between bell and segment occurred at a surface parallel to the axis.

IX. Double Patenting (Provisional Rejection)

The Examiner notes the filing of divisional application 10/685,914 and levies a provisional double patenting rejection against Claims 3 and 7. Applicant believes that the Examiner must have had reference to Claim 17, rather than Claim 7, given that Claim 7 has already been cancelled.

Pursuant to MPEP 804(1)(B), Applicant understands that a response is not required to the “provisional” double patenting rejection, until such time as one of the two co-pending applications is in condition for issuance (except for the double patenting issue). Applicant reserves the right to submit argument against the double patenting rejection at a later time, given that the claims of the copending application may not yet be in their final form.

At present, Applicant argues that the provisional double patenting rejection should be withdrawn because comparison of Claim 1 of the copending application includes the element of a gutter, which is not referenced in Claim 3 or 17 of the instant application.

Further, pursuant to MPEP 804.II.B.1, "Any obviousness-type double patenting rejection should make clear: (A) the differences between the inventions defined by the conflicting claims...; and (B) the reasons why a person of ordinary skill in the art would conclude that the invention defined in the claim in issue is an obvious variation of the invention defined in a claim in the patent." Applicant contends that this burden has not been met.

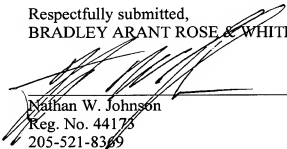
Fees

An extension of Three Months is hereby requested. A check for the fees is included and any additional fees are authorized to be charged against Deposit Account 50-0954.

Applicant has diligently sought to comply with all requirements and to correct all informalities and objections. The Application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a timely Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

January 13, 2005

Respectfully submitted,
BRADLEY ARANT ROSE & WHITE LLP



Nathan W. Johnson
Reg. No. 44173
205-521-8369

ATTACHMENTS – Certificate of Mailing & Deposit Account Authorization



Appl. No. 09/590,586
Response Dated January 13, 2005
Reply to Office Action of 07/13/04

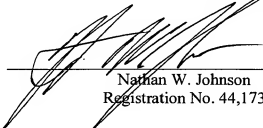
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3.	Response and Amendment		
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	Claims Listing	2	p.
	Remarks/Argument	14	p.
	This Page	1	p.
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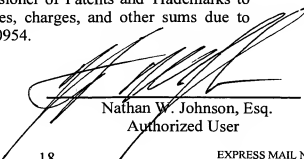


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AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

If, after processing the enclosed checks, any charges, fees, or sums due remain unpaid in connection with this correspondence, I hereby authorize the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to charge all such remaining fees, charges, and other sums due to Deposit Account Number 50-0954.



Nathan W. Johnson, Esq.
Authorized User



Appendix

Definitions:

bite - Merriam-Webster Unabridged - Nathan's Internet

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20 entries found.

- bite[1,verb]
- bite[2,noun]
- bite
- bite[1]
- bite block
- bite in
- bite off
- crib-bite
- devil's-bite
- early bite
- first bite
- leaf bite
- put[1,verb]
- rat-bite fever
- rattlesnake-bite
- squash bite
- tick-bite fever
- bite plate
- bite-size
- sound bite

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Go

Double-click any word in this entry to see its definition.

Main Entry: **bite** Pronunciation Guide
Pronunciation: 'bit, usu -d +V
Function: verb
Inflected Form(s): bit 'bit, usu -d +V, or dialect British bate 'bait, or bote 'böt, bitten 'bitən, or nonstandard bit, biting, bites
Etymology: Middle English *biten*, from Old English *bītan*; akin to Old High German *bīzan* to bite, Old Norse *bīta*, Gothic *beitan* to bite, Latin *findere* to split, Sanskrit *bhedati* he splits
transitive verb
1 a (1) : to seize with the teeth so that they enter, grip, or wound <the dogs *bit* the child savagely> (2) : to remove (as part of something) with the teeth <a piece was *bitten* from the apple> : sever by biting <she *bit* the thread in two> b : to seize, pinch, or sever with the jaws (as of a snapping turtle) or with a jawlike organ (as the claw of a lobster) c : **STING**: (1) : to pierce with any of certain sharp-pointed buccal organs (as the proboscis of a mosquito or the fangs of a snake) (2) : to pierce with any of certain other pointed organs not associated with the mouth (as the stinger of a bee) -- not used technically
2 : **CUT**, **PIERCE** -- used of edged weapons or their wielders <the sword cleft his armor and *bit* him to the bone>
3 obsolete : **EAT**, **NIBBLE**, **CHEW** : graze
4 : to cause sharp pain or stinging discomfort to <the wind howling, the sleet *biting* our necks>

Internet



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into
into[1]

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Go

Double-click any word in the entry to see its definition.

Main Entry: into Pronunciation Guide
Pronunciation: in-tü, -n-(j)tü, +V often -ntsw
Function: preposition

Etymology: Middle English, from Old English *intō*, from ²*in* + *tō* to 1 a -- used as a function word primarily denoting motion so directed as to terminate, if continued, when the position denoted by *in* has been reached and usually after a verb that carries the idea of motion or a word implying or suggesting motion or passage to indicate a place or thing entered or penetrated or enterable or penetrable by or as if by a movement from the outside to an interior part <came into the house> <the river ran into the sea> <traveled into the next state> <a route into the wilderness> <imports into this country> <the mountains merge into the plain> <brought into membership in the club> <off we go into the wide blue yonder> but sometimes in constructions in which the idea of motion is carried by the very use of *into* in preference to *in* <among the first into the field -- New York Herald Tribune> <they were into their clothes and on deck -- H.A. Chippendale> <the child was into the cookie jar as soon as no one was looking> <stores them away into an inner pocket -- A.J. Coutts> <baptized into the Catholic Church> b : in toward <sailed the boat into the pier> <the batter leaned into the pitch> <it stood close into a fine cottonwood grove -- Willa Cather> <keeping well into the foot or lower slopes of the scarps -- S.G. Joseph>

2 chiefly Scotland : in 1a(1) <living into his new house>

App. Ser. No.:	09/590,586
Filing Date:	June 8, 2000
Inventor:	Holmes, M.
Title:	Restraining Gasket for Mechanical Joints of Pipes
Responsive to:	Examiner's Interview Summary of 07/13/2004
Examiner:	Nguyen, Xuan Lan T
Art Unit:	3683

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

December 15, 2004 Interview - - - Serial Number 09/590,586

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS:

The above identified applicant respectfully requests the Commissioner of Patents enter this Interview Summary into the record, in connection with to the Examiner's Interview Summary dated December 15, 2004.

Application Number: 09/590,586

Applicant: William W. Holmes, IV, et al

Examiner: Nguyen, Xuan Lan T

Interview Date: December 15, 2004

Interview Type: In-Person, USPTO Offices

Interview Attendees: Examiner Nguyen, and
Nathan W. Johnson, the attorney of record for Applicant
Dan Copeland, a listed inventor

Interview Exhibits: Dr. Daniel Duke, PhD., Consultant for Applicant
Reference to drawings and text of record, visual demonstration of
arrangement of component parts for clarity in discussing
distinctions

Claims Discussed: Claim 3 (and therefore dependant claims)

Prior Art Discussed: Miller, as cited in the Office Action dated July 13, 2004

Resolution: Applicant indicated it would submit further response.

Summary Of Interview:

Applicant cordially thanks the examiner for the interview conducted on December 15, 2004. Applicant sought interview based on the Examiner's indication that it was unclear what was meant by the distinction in terms of "biting." Applicant demonstrated how structure operates and discussed meaning of bite and claimed distinctions.

January 13, 2005

Date

Respectfully submitted,
BRADLEY ARANT ROSE & WHITE LLP

Nathan W. Johnson, Reg. No. 44173
205-521-8369 (voice); 205-488-6369 (fax)